

ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Richmond, June 26, 1863.

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 90. }

I. The senior officer of engineers, serving with an army in the field, will be held responsible for the proper execution of all duties appertaining to his department; and the orders of the Commanding General relating to the engineer service, will be communicated through him, and he will recommend to the General commanding, the assignments of junior officers of engineers, to serve with corps, divisions and brigades. The engineer officer of highest rank in each assignment, will receive the orders of his immediate commander, report to him whatever concerns the engineer service, and communicate to him the orders he receives from the senior engineer. He will also report to the senior engineer all his operations, with sketches, drawings and maps for the information of the Commanding General, and for transmission to the Engineer Bureau.

II. All officers of engineers, and employees under the Engineer Department, will communicate through the proper channels with the senior engineer serving with the army in the field, be responsible to him for all public funds and property in their hands, and receive his orders and instructions.

III. The duties of officers of engineers serving with the armies of the Confederate States in the field, camp or cantonment, are as follows, viz: To make reconnoissances and surveys of the sections of country occupied by our forces, and as far as possible, of the country held by the enemy, embracing all the information that can be obtained in reference to roads, bridges, fords, topographical and military features, the character and dimensions of the water courses, the practicability of constructing fixed and floating bridges, the extent of wooded and cleared lands, and the capacity of the country to supply the general wants of the army; to make detailed examinations and surveys of positions to be occupied for defensive purposes; to select the sites, and form plans, projects and estimates for all military works, defensive or offensive, viz: field forts, batteries, rifle pits, lines of infantry cover, military trenches, parallels, saps, mines and other works of attack and siege; also, works for obstructing rivers and harbors; to prepare such maps and plans as will give a full knowledge of the ground and proposed works, and submit the same to

the Commanding General for his information and consideration, and forward, through the proper channels, copies of all reports, memoirs, estimates, plans, drawings and models relating to the duties above enumerated, to the Engineer Bureau at Richmond.

IV. The locations and plans for the works being thus determined, they will be marked out on the ground by the engineers, who will indicate by stakes, lines, profiles and other guides, the shape and dimensions of the different parts, for the information and government of those who direct the troops or laborers employed to do the work. When troops are detailed to construct temporary defences, they will be in all cases commanded by their officers, who will see that the work is done in exact conformity to the plans and directions of the officer of engineers, without regard to rank.

V. When an officer of engineers is charged with directing an expedition, or making a reconnoissance requiring the support of an escort, without having command of the troops, he will call on the commander of the escort to move with, and extend to him all protection necessary to secure the success of the operation.

VI. Officers of engineers will not assume, nor be ordered on any duty beyond the line of their immediate profession, except by special order of the President. In the operations of the armies of the Confederate States, all that appertains to the science of civil or military engineering will be assigned by commanders to the officers of engineers serving with their forces; and with them will rest the responsibility of a proper execution of the works. The labor will be performed, if possible, by details of troops commanded by their officers: in other cases, by hired labor under the control of overseers employed by the engineer officers.

VII. Officers of engineers will not be required to give other supervision to the fatigue parties or laborers employed in the construction of works, than is necessary to indicate, in a clear and distinct manner to those directing the labor, their plans, and the character of the work to be done.

VIII. The senior officer of engineers serving with a Commanding General in the field, will transmit to the Engineer Bureau at Richmond the reports, plans and journals called for by paragraph 478, Army Regulations.

By order.

S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General.